(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take such as diversifying their manufacturing activities; and also export, for increase in the utilisation of their capacities; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of making each Ordnance Factory, a separate profit centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) (a) to (c) The capacity in some ordnance factories is not fully utilised due to—

(i) fluctuations in demand for products.

(ii) limitation of funds.

(iii) some excess capacity having been deliberately created to respond to surge requirements in emergencies.

To improve utilisation of their capacities, the spareable capacities are deployed for diversification for civil market and export, wherever possible, after fully meeting the requirement of the defence forces.

Each ordnance factory is an independent business/production centre already. The ordnance factory organisation as a whole works on no profit no loss basis so far as the production for the armed forces is concerned.

Signing of Licence Agreement for Basic Telephone Services

11. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no Licence Agreement has been signed for basic telephone services even though tenders for these services were invited earlier last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time frame for signing the Licence Agreements for all the circles?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven Indian registered companies were issued Letters of Intent (LOIs) for Basic Telephone Service and only five of them have accepted the LOIs. The Government has taken appropriate steps to resolve a number of issues raised by these companies keeping in view the provisions in the tender conditions as well as speedy implementation of National Telcom Policy. None of these companies, however, has paid the first year's licence fee which is the prerequisite for signing the Licence Agreement.

(c) Out of the ten LOIs issued so far by Govt. in March, 1996, five LOIs stand accepted in October, 1996 and shall be converted into Licence Agreements soon after the receipt of requisite Licence fee. The cases relating to remaining five LOIs are subjudice in the High Court of Delhi.

Waiting List of Telephone in Delhi

12. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of applications for telephone connections in different categories in Delhi as on 1.11.96; and

(b) by when the telephones would be given on demand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The details of waitng list categorywise in MTNL, New Delhi as on 01-11-96 is given as under.

OYT.	G	40
OYT.	SPL	1
NON-OYT.	SPL	18
NON-OYT.	SS	Current
NON-OYT.	G	73802
	Total :	73861

(b) Telephone connections in Delhi are likely to be available on demand by 1997 except in some areas due to technical non-feasibility.

Attack on Indian High Commission Staff in Pakistan

13. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent attacks on the staff of Indian High Commission at Islamabad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide proper protection to them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) There have been incidents of harassment, intimidation, obtrusive surveillance and violence against the personnel of High Commission of India, Islamabad and their family members by the operatives of the Pakistan intelligence agencies.

Government have lodged strong protests and conveyed deep concern to Pakistan on all these incidents. Such actions are in violation of the basic norms of diplomatic conduct and are totally unacceptable.

Government of India have called upon the Government of Pakistan to fulfil its commitments both under the vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 as well as the Bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic Personnel of 1992. Under the international conventions and the bilateral agreement, responsibility for ensuring the safety of diplomatic missions and personnel lies with the host Government. We have urged the Government of Pakistan to take effective measures to respect their obiligations and fulfil their responsibilities in ensuring the safety & security of the personnel of our Mission in Islamabad. On our part we scrupulously follow the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Bilateral Code of Conduct.

Chinese Nuclear Equipment Sale to Pakistan

14. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to news reports that China is selling nuclear equipments to Pakistan once again;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to counter such threats to country's security?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):(a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen news reports on the transfer of nuclear equipment by China to Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Government are fully aware of the clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme. The security situation of India is constantly under review particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood. Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the secuirty of the nation.

Restructuring and Revival of Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam

15. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has given representation for capital restructuring and revival of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam;

(b) the assistance sought for and proposed to be released; and

(c) the policy of direct support for survival of Indian ship building yards?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIT.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, while forwarding on 15.7.96 the representation of Telugunadu Trade Union Council (TNTUC) unit, Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam had requested for capital restructuring of HSL and continuing the Government assistance for shipbuilding industry.

Action has since been initiated by the Government to process the proposals relating to capital restructuring of HSL and re-introduction of subsidy scheme.

Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development Project

16. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to UN-ESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), India would benefit from the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) Project